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CITY OF SAN DIEGO Coastal Low Flow Diversion Program

PROGRAM PURPOSE

San Diego is a remarkable place. The natural beauty of our rugged coastline, mountainous inland areas and desert plateaus meld together in a seemingly seamless fabric of biodiversity that is breathtaking. Yet, like many cities, our natural beauty struggles to endure and overcome the adverse water quality impacts our urbanized lifestyle brings to our beaches, bays, wetlands and ocean.



to — and our economy relies upon — the unique lifestyle our coastal environment provides. Thus, in 2001, the Mayor and City Council established "Goal #4 - Clean up our beaches and bays" as one of the most urgent civic improvements to be achieved.

Like most cities, the greatest cause of high bacteria counts at San Diego beaches is urban runoff, not sewage spills. Sewage spills account for less than 10 percent of beach posting and closure days in the City of San Diego.



Over the last twenty years, the City of San Diego has taken aggressive steps to improve water quality and limit the impacts of urban runoff and sewage spills to our recreational waters. In the mid 1980's, the City pioneered a new technology when it constructed eight Coastal Low Flow Diversion facilities — at Mission Bay. The primary purpose of the facilities was to protect beach goers from polluted runoff during dry weather

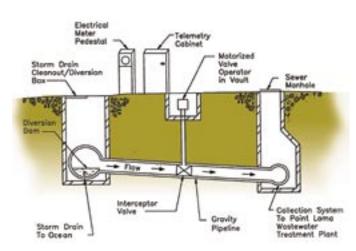
months- which is most of the time in San Diego.

By 1996, some 46 Diversion facilities were ringing Mission Bay and the San Diego River channel. The Mission Bay facilities successfully diverted urban runoff and sewage spills, thereby reducing the risk of illness to beach goers. Thus, the City decided to add facilities to the Coastal Low Flow Diversion Program to be implemented by the Engineering and Capital Projects Department.

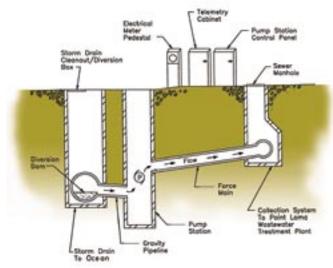
THE COASTAL LOW FLOW DIVERSION PROGRAM

The Coastal Low Flow Diversion Program works on the principle that dry season storm drain flows (low flows) are often polluted. Normally, storm drains collect polluted flows year-around from sidewalks, curbs, gutters and inlets and carry them untreated to the nearest beach, creek, river or bay via a series of underground pipes

Coastal Low Flow Diversion facilities capture flows from urban runoff and sewage spills just upstream of the storm



GRAVITY LOW FLOW STORM DRAIN DIVERSION



PUMPED LOW FLOW STORM DRAIN DIVERSION

drain pipe terminus at the beach. Often these facilities are the last barrier protecting the beach from unhealthy flows.

Diversion facilities consist of a series of underground pipelines, valves and pumps. They tie into the storm drain system and divert "low flows" into the sewer system for treatment. "Low flows" are urban runoff and/or sewage overflows, or flows seen during dry weather periods as opposed to the "high flows" experienced during rainy periods. The Diversion facilities are equipped with sensors that trigger the facility to shut down and stop diversion when high flows are experienced.



In July 2003, the City of San Diego received \$6,091,400 in funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assist in the construction of new, and the repair of existing Diversion facilities.